

REMARKS

In a first Office Action dated August 9, 2004, the Examiner objected to FIGs. 1 and 2 as lacking a legend “-Prior Art-.” The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13, 15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Balazinski et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,738,379, hereinafter referred to as “Balazinski”). The Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Balazinski in view of Besser (U.S. patent no. 6,331,987). The Examiner allowed claims 9-12 and 21-23. The rejections and objections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The applicants have amended each of FIGs. 1 and 2 by adding the legend “-Prior Art-” as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the figures. The applicants have further amended each of FIGs. 1 and 3 to correct shading errors in the figures. Replacement Sheets reflecting these changes are attached to this Amendment.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13, 15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Balazinski. Claims 1 and 13 each have been amended to provide for wirelessly receiving multiple packets from multiple wireless communication units to produce multiple received packets, wherein each received packet of the multiple received packets includes a packet identifier, sorting the multiple received packets according to the packet identifiers, and forwarding the sorted received packets to an upstream component of an infrastructure of a communication system. These features are not taught by the admitted prior art or by Balazinski.

The admitted prior art teaches wirelessly receiving multiple packets to produce multiple received packets and forwarding the wirelessly received packets, in an order received, to an upstream component of an infrastructure of a communication system. Nowhere does the admitted prior art teach a sorting of the wireless received packets prior to a forwarding of the packets.

Balazinski merely teaches an infrastructure system. Further, Balazinski merely teaches a single sending network component, such as an SGSN, that assigns a sequence number to each of multiple packets and then sends each of the multiple packets to a receiving network component, such as a base station, via a different network path. The receiving network component then sorts the packets received from the single sending network component based on the assigned sequence numbers. Balazinski teaches nothing concerning wireless communications, and nowhere teaches a receipt and sorting of wirelessly transmitted packets that are received from multiple wireless communication units. In addition, in Balazinski, the sorting is done on a receiving side of the network, that is, by a network component that receives the forwarded packets. By contrast, claim 1 teaches a sorting on a sending side of a network, that is, a sorting of the packets before the packets are forwarded to an upstream network component.

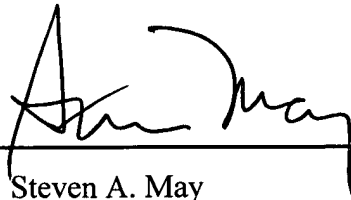
Therefore, neither the admitted prior art nor Balazinski, individually or in combination, teach the features of claims 1 and 13 of sorting multiple received packets according to the packet identifiers, wherein the multiple received packets are wirelessly received from multiple wireless communication units, and forwarding the sorted packets to an upstream component of an infrastructure of a communication system. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claims 1 and 13 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 2-8 depend upon allowable claim 1 and claims 14-20 depend upon allowable claim 13, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2-8 and 14-20 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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